

[The bull frog is omnivorous and we have, from time to time, recorded various items as its food. They include snakes, garden lizards, toads, a wounded snipe, sparrows, Guinea fowl chicks, rats, mole crickets and also the cocoon of a psychid moth made of sharp babool spines, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in length, with larva inside. We have, however, no record, of a frog clasping its prey in its arms!—Eds.]

17. THE RECORD INDIAN CROCODILE

Major W. Robert Foran in the *Field* dated January 13, 1951, p. 61 dealt with the records of large crocodiles in Africa and wrote:—

'A normal specimen is roughly seven times the length of its head. An alleged 40 ft. one, therefore, would have a head about 6 ft. in length, which is the height of absurdity . . .'

The evidence for the largest Estuarine Crocodile (*Crocodilus porosus*) was a skull in the British Museum from Bengal and which was said to have been taken from an animal measuring 33 ft. in length. We wrote to Dr. Malcolm Smith asking for its measurements and his reply reads:

It measured $33\frac{1}{2}$ in. which is $\frac{1}{12}$ of the total length, if 33 ft. as stated, is correct. There is no reason to think that the African crocodile differs greatly in proportions from that of *C. porosus*.'

If Major Foran's method of calculation is correct the alleged record specimen would have been only 19 ft. 5 in. in length and not 33 ft. We have examined two Marsh Crocodiles (*C. palustris*) in Bombay, one juvenile 290 mm. and one adult (10 ft. 5 in.) and their heads measure between $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{7}$ of their total length.

114, APOLLO STREET,
BOMBAY,
December, 1953.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

18. AN ADDITION TO THE LIST OF SNAKES OF BOMBAY AND SALSETTE—UROPELTIS MACROLEPIS (PETERS)—UROPELTIDAE

On the 2nd July 1953, Mrs. Roshan Captain sent in a specimen of the Roughtailed Earth snake—*Uropeltis macrolepis* (Peters) obtained in a garden at Powai Lake, Salsette Island, Bombay. This species has not been recorded previously from Bombay and Salsette Island.

Some potted plants had just been received from Bangalore, but Mrs. Captain assures us that the snake was picked up about 30 yds. away and could not have arrived in this parcel.

It is interesting to note that this specimen has the characteristics of those localised at Mahableshwar as recorded in *J.B.N.H.S.*, 50, p. 950 and 51, p. 512, i.e. a lemon-yellow stripe occupying 2 scalerows on either side as also 12-13 subcaudals.

Subsequent to this Dr. K. K. Nair of Wilson College, Bombay, sent in one more specimen from Mahableshwar which agrees with these.